

Good News for Derby

FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING

\$15,704

Crime prevention and control

\$600,000

Pavement rehabilitation

STATE GRANTS

\$25,000

CT Trust for Historic Preservation
Grant for Sterling Opera House
architectural services

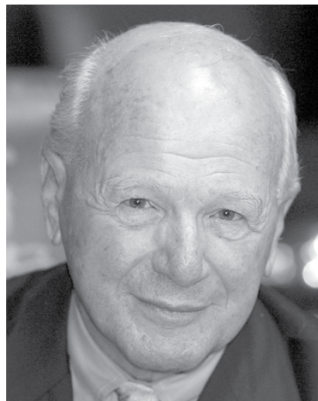
\$1,000

Derby PTO arts grant

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the State Capitol during the 2009 Legislative Session, and to continue to be of service to the City of Derby.

Having provided early funding of \$1 million for architectural services for the Sterling Opera House, I am pleased to report that this work will move forward thanks to a state grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation. Additionally, several projects in Derby will receive funding from the federal economic stimulus package. They include funding for crime prevention and control, sidewalk paving.



State Senator **JOE CRISCO**

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Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

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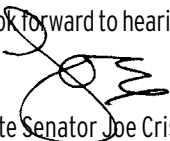
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I hope that you will take a moment to review the information presented in this newsletter. As always, I appreciate hearing your views on matters before the General Assembly. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at Crisco@senatedems.ct.gov, or by phone at 1-800-842-1420.

I look forward to hearing from you.


State Senator Joe Crisco



State Senator Joe Crisco's Legislative Initiatives



Helping Laid-Off Workers Lower COBRA Health Coverage Costs

I have urged my colleagues to act quickly to change Connecticut's insurance laws so that certain laid-off workers are able to take advantage of a benefit in the federal economic stimulus package. Under the package, the federal government will help laid-off workers maintain their health care coverage through COBRA (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) by subsidizing 65% of the cost of the premiums. This benefit applies to workers laid off from September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. Workers who lost their jobs with large companies any time between September 1, 2008 and February 16, 2009 can enroll in COBRA retroactively. Connecticut also has a COBRA law for laid-off workers from companies with less than 20 employees. Our laws must be amended to allow these workers the retroactive benefit of this economic stimulus package. I am confident that the legislature will accomplish this change immediately.

Resources for Job Seekers

Many programs providing assistance to job seekers can be found by visiting the Jobs Web page produced by Senate Democrats. You can access this page at www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs

Insurance Initiatives

As Co-Chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I am pleased that many proposals continue to move forward. If ultimately successful, these bills would:

- Expand the availability and affordability of health care so that all our residents can obtain health-care coverage.
- Require mammography reports to include information about breast density for the early detection of breast cancer.
- Establish a task force that would study the use of a lottery system as a permitted method for homeowners to sell their homes.
- Enhance the consumer report card by providing more information about claims to employers and individuals, allowing them to compare different insurance companies and plans.

Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Toll-Free Hotline: 1-877-472-8313

We want to do all we can to help Connecticut residents avoid foreclosure. That is why the Department of Banking has set up a Hotline (above) to provide information, materials and contact information to help residents resolve their mortgage difficulties.

One of the programs available to homeowners is the judicial mediation program. Under this successful program, mediators bring together the homeowner, the bank and the bank's attorney to discuss ways to resolve the foreclosure.